

The Blades Groundwater Site was listed to the National Priority List (NPL) on September 3rd, 2020. EPA selected their contractor on December 18th, 2020, kickstarting EPA's Remedial Investigation activities. The purpose of the Remedial Investigation is to determine the nature and extent of contamination. Currently, EPA's contractor is developing Site-Specific planning documents to assist with the upcoming investigations in order to define the nature and extent of contamination.

The initial Remedial Investigation activities EPA is planning will include sampling for PFOA/PFOS and other contaminants of potential concern in private domestic well water to evaluate the potential exposure to Site groundwater contamination. The initial RI activities will also include sampling of the town of Blades' public drinking water supply wells.

Residents whose private wells had exceedances of PFOA/PFOS in the 2018 sampling event conducted during the Site Investigation, prior to the Site being added to the NPL, have been and are currently being provided treatment units by DNREC to remove risk of exposure to PFOA/PFOS in their drinking water. Additionally, DNREC has been conducting sampling of the Town of Blades public drinking water supply wells on a quarterly basis. There is ongoing successful treatment of the public water supply wells by the Blades Water Authority to remove metals and PFOA/PFOS. The town of Blades' public drinking water supply wells continue to meet Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act stands. This sampling is to ensure the treatment remains effective. EPA plans to take over the public drinking water supply well sampling since the Blades Groundwater Site is now on the NPL.

Additional Remedial Investigation activities will include groundwater monitoring well installation/sampling, soil characterization, and surface water/sediment sampling for contaminants of potential concern. Monitoring well installation and sampling would likely occur downgradient of potential source areas and throughout the Town of Blades. Soil characterization would likely occur at the potential source area locations. Surface water/sediment sampling would likely occur at Morgan Branch and the Nanticoke River. It is unclear the exact timeline these events will occur, however remedial investigations typically take approximately 3-5 years. During this time, the nature and extent of contamination will continue to become defined, and potential risks will continue to be evaluated. It is anticipated these additional remedial investigation activities will occur after the initial remedial investigation activities described above.

A very important aspect to this work includes Community Involvement. Our EPA Community Involvement Coordinators recently posted two "In the Moment" videos to the EPA Blades website in early March about current work at the site and the upcoming Community Involvement Plan. They can be viewed here:

[HYPERLINK "<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/bladesgroundwater>"]

Outreach is not limited to videos, throughout our efforts, the site team will be working closely with residents, providing them up to date information, including letters, fact sheets, post cards, community meetings, and social media.